

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 229166  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA:AKKORKY  
APPROVED BY: NEA:AKKORKY  
S/S-O:SPRVALERGA

-----075632 101839Z /40

O 101826Z SEP 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0660

S E C R E T STATE 229166

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY VANCE'S PARTY AT CAMP DAVID  
FOR KAMER, EIDSNESS, SAUNDERS, OR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 12114 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO  
BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, USUN NEW YORK 10 SEP 78

QUOTE S E C R E T TEL AVIV 12114

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, IS, LE, SY, UN  
SUBJECT: NORTH LEBANON  
REF: STATE 229141

1. AFTER OUR DISCUSSION ON SOUTH LEBANON REPORTED SEPTTEL,  
GAZIT MOVED TO EVENTS IN THE NORTH. ALTHOUGH HE WENT  
THROUGH FAMILIAR ISRAELI DESCRIPTION OF SYRIAN INTENTION  
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TO BREAK MILITARY AND POLITICAL POWER OF MARONITE MILI-  
TIAS, GAZIT WAS MUCH MORE CONCERNED IN HIS REMARKS WITH  
SYRIAN ACTIONS IN LEBANESE AIRSPACE.

2. HE STRESSED SYRIA WAS VIOLATING A FIVE-YEAR-OLD DE  
FACTO AGREEMENT WITH GOI TO REGARD LEBANESE AIRSPACE AS  
"FREE" AIRSPACE FOR BOTH SYRIAN AND ISRAELI AIRCRAFT.

ISRAEL COULD NOT ACCEPT SYRIAN ATTEMPTS TO TRY TO STOP ISRAELI RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER LEBANON. GAZIT SAID, "IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR CAMP DAVID, WE WOULD HAVE HAD AN AIR CLASH OVER LEBANON LONG AGO." BECAUSE OF THE SUMMIT, THE GOI HAD AVOIDED IN THE LAST TEN DAYS RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS NORTH OF BEIRUT. BUT THAT WOULD NOT GO ON MUCH PAST CAMP DAVID, AND GOI HAD DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT SYRIAN PILOTS HAD ORDERS TO INTERCEPT ISRAELI AIRCRAFT NORTH OF BEIRUT. INDEED, SYRIANS SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT AND ISRAELI PILOTS WERE EAGER TO OBLIGE.

3. GAZIT SAID THAT IF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT FLEW NORTH OF BEIRUT TODAY, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A CLASH. THROUGH THIS ACTION, THE SYRIANS HAD ALREADY CROSSED THE "RED LINE" WITH REGARD TO LEBANESE AIR SPACE. IF THE SYRIANS PERSISTED, THE ONLY QUESTION WAS WHEN THE AIR BATTLE OVER LEBANON WOULD TAKE PLACE, NOT IF. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, GAZIT SAID THAT IN LAST WEEK SYRIAN AIRCRAFT HAD CROSSED OVER INTO LEBANESE AIRSPACE.

4. I WENT OVER POINTS IN REFTTEL AND URGED FURTHER RESTRAINT ON PART OF GOI. GAZIT'S ANSWER WAS TO ASK IF WE HAD YET RECEIVED REPLY FROM ASSAD TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE. MY NEGATIVE RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH SUITABLY EMBELLISHED, DID NOTHING TO INCREASE GAZIT'S SYMPATHY  
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FOR U.S. CONCERNS OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON. VIETS

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE229166  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA:AKKORKY  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1489866  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORTH LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MOPS, IS, LE, SY, UN  
**To:** WHITE HOUSE  
**Type:** TE  
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